

CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1 1. A method of reducing the rate of growth of tumor  
2 cells *in vivo* in a mammalian subject, the tumor cells  
3 comprising an IL13-specific receptor, comprising the step of  
4 delivering into the subject a molecule having an IL13-moiety  
5 and a cytotoxic moiety in an amount effective to reduce the  
6 rate of growth of tumor cells.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the tumor cells are  
2 glioblastoma multiforme cells.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the rate of tumor  
2 growth is reduced by at least 25%.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the growth of the  
2 tumor is inhibited.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the tumor volume is  
2 reduced.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the molecule is  
2 delivered by intratumoral injection.

1 7. A method of detecting an IL13-specific receptor in a  
2 tissue specimen comprising normal cells or tumor cells,  
3 comprising the steps of:

4 (a) contacting a portion of the specimen with a labeled  
5 IL13 receptor-binding molecule under conditions suitable for  
6 binding of the IL13 receptor-binding molecule to an IL13  
7 receptor for a period of time sufficient to allow said  
8 binding;

9 (b) washing the specimen sample portion of step a under  
10 conditions suitable for removing unbound IL13 receptor-  
11 binding molecule; and

12 (c) detecting the presence or absence of bound, labeled  
13 IL13 receptor-binding molecule to the specimen portion of  
14 step (b).

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the specimen portion  
2 of step a is preincubated in the presence or absence of IL4.

1 9. A method of imaging tumor cells having IL13-specific  
2 receptors in vivo in a mammalian subject comprising the steps  
3 of:

4 (a) delivering an imaging-effective amount of labeled  
5 IL13 receptor-binding molecule into the subject; and

6 (b) evaluating the distribution of the labeled IL13  
7 receptor-binding molecule into the subject.

1 10. A pharmaceutical composition for inhibiting in vivo  
2 the growth of a tumor bearing an IL13-specific receptor com-  
3 prising a molecule having an IL13 receptor-binding moiety and  
4 a cytotoxic moiety in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

1 11. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 10, wherein  
2 the molecule is a chimeric molecule comprising human IL13  
3 receptor-binding moiety and a cytotoxic moiety selected from  
4 the group consisting of PE3QQR, PE4E, and modified *Diphtheria*  
5 toxin.

1 12. A kit for the *in vivo* or *in vitro* identification of  
2 cells bearing IL13-specific receptors comprising a compound  
3 comprising a portion of interleukin 13, the portion being  
4 capable of binding to an IL13-specific receptor to a greater  
5 extent than IL4 binds to the receptor.

1 13. An isolated polynucleotide fragment comprising a  
2 coding region for an IL13-specific receptor.

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